IVERSITY OF DODOMA

COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY AND ARCHAEOLOGY

COURSE NAME: SURVEY OF WORLD HISTORY TO ABOUT CA. 1500 AD

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COURSE INSTRUCTOR: DR. TULIBAKO MWAKASEGE

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QUESTION: 15

Source: reilly, the west and the world – how did the road influence the "exchange systems" of the indian and arab worlds?

Silk Road, reffer to the trade networks in pre-modern history which connected the Middle East, East Asia, Central Asia, India, North Africa, and Europe. Through this network, the Indian and Arab worlds became major centers of commercial, cultural, and intellectual exchange.Before the rise of modern transportation and global trade, the Silk Road served as one of the greatest networks of interaction in world history. Which conducted across Asia, the Middle East, and in some parts of Africa and Europe, the Silk Road connected different civilizations through the movement of goods, people, cultures, and ideas. Among the societies most influenced by this network were the Indian and Arab worlds, both of which became important centers of commerce and cultural exchange before 1500 AD. Through caravan trade and maritime connections, the Silk Road transformed their exchange systems by encouraging economic growth, urban development, technological diffusion, and religious interaction. As explained in the book known as The West and the World, written by Kevin Reilly, the Silk Road was not merely a trade route for luxury goods such as silk and spices, but a powerful channel through which civilizations interacted and shaped one another’s political, social, and intellectual development.

The following points analyse how the Silk Road influenced the exchange systems of the Indian and Arab worlds, as follows;

First, Silk Road influenced the exchange of technology. Through the motivation and influence from the system of exchange in Silk Road between India and Arab help to develop new technologies that enhance the advancement of trade activities For example the exchange of technology were the transfer of India mathematics and numbers to be developed in Arabic mathematical knowledge that led nowadays are called Arabic numerals although they originally came from India, also there was the medicine technology that Indian herbal medicine were surgical and practices led to influence Arab physicians also Arab doctors translated Indian medical works in to Arabic also hospitals and medical schools in the Islamic world later passed this knowledge to other regions in world, eventhough there was navigation technology help to accumulate the biordevisity from seas and oceans that led to obtain new goods and foods like fish also there was the technology of shipbuilding and thus of the trade across the India ocean encouraged more advanced in shipbuilding through the exchange techniques between India and Arab so as to produce better ships and increase trade contact between India, Arab and global trade in general.[1]

Secondly, the silk road led to the growth of commercial cities and ports, through the presence of silk road connected between Indian and Arab world has been influence the exchange system between these two areas because

[1] Jacobs, Justin M. "The Concept of the Silk Road in the 19th and 20th Centuries." (2017).

silk road facilitated the growth and expansion of commercial cities and ports forexample growth of calicut and surat which also increases the development of the exchange system of the Indian and Arab worlds and also through commercial cities and ports influenced trading system of various goods forexample ports influenced the maritime trade so as to ensure easy exchange system between Indian and Arab world , influenced growth of banking and other financial institutions in towns centres and also this stimulate the strong economic relationship through commercial cities and ports development in silk road so as to simplify exchange system.[2]

Thirdly, the Silk Road necessitated to the spreads of Religion, for example Islam and Buddhism, The expansion of Islam believes from the Arab world to other regions in the world was essentially tied to Silk Road. Islam spreads through the integration of people in famous trading cities like Mecca and Medina where the two cities were deeply connected to both overland and Maritime silk roads branches, therefore this helped prominent Islamic leaders like prophet Muhammad and other caliphs smoothly to spread Islamic belief to the non Islams in the in regardless of their races. In other hand, the spread of Buddhism also was as same as of Islam which was done when Indian monks and traders traveled along the routes especially through Hindu Kush and central Asia, this helps them to met people from

[2] Li, Chuoran, Lanjie Zhang, Shaoyang Chen, Ting Zhang, Jian Zhou, Jinshan He, Weiwang Xu, and Tingting Wang. “Has the Maritime Silk Road Initiative Promoted the Development and Expansion of Port City Clusters Along Its Route?” Cities 151 (2024): 105127.

various places in the world and convert them into Buddhism as a better form of religion. Therefore the spread of Islam and Buddhism fundamentally restructured the exchange system between Indians, Arabs and other people from various region of the world by introducing new financial tools, legal protection and infrastructures.[3]

Fourthly, the Silk Road led to the growth of commercial economies. Silk Road was the most leading factor the emergence of commercial economies. For instance, such networks facilitated the use of coin, credits systems, Arab introduced (Sakk) an early form of a check which allowed merchants to transfer money safely across the region without carrying coins as well as banking practices at large this monetary exchange systems made trade easier and more profitable to both India and Arab world. Also Arab traders developed advanced commercial approach due to the influence of Silk Road network. Therefore, Silk Road transformed exchange system between Arab world and India from barter system towards organized exchange economy.[4]

Fifthy, Silk Road led to the development of trade networks; the Silk Road contributed much in strengthening trade connections between Arab and Indian regions. This integration resulted to the expansion of trade networks

[3] Tan, Jingfeng. “The Spread and Integration of Religious Culture along the Eastern Silk Road.” *Journal of Cultural and Religious Studies 8, no. 3 (2020):*

[4] Samoylovskiy, Alexey L., and Andrey L. Samoylovskiy. "The Great Silk Road and its impact on Cultural exchange and Economic development in Ancient Civilizations." *Наука. Общество. Оборона 12, no. 3 (40) (2024): 27-27.*

in India and Arab worlds through involvement of ocaravan route and maritime routes. The Silk Road influenced the development of trade networks such as overland trade routes and maritime trade routes that particularly marked connection between China and India to the Arabic peninsula, Misopotamia and the Mediterranean. For instance, the cities like Baghdad and Jeddah in Arabia had become the centres of goods a something that made Arabic merchants to develop Sophisticated Shipping routes across the Arabian Sea and into the Indian Ocean so as to ensure high demand for Chinese goods and Indian spices. Therefore the development of trade networks through land and sea routes created financial and commercial benefits and good trade relations between India, China and the Arab worlds in general.[5]

Generally, silk road, was overall influential factor for development of exchange systems of the Indian and Arab worlds, due to the fact that through silk road trade networks became more simpler as traders from both India and Arab worlds Contacted each other .Therefore silk road played vital role in shaping social, cultural, economic as well as technological exchanges between the Indian and Arab worlds.

[5] Zhartay, Zhanibek, Zhibek Khussainova, Gulzhan Abauova, and Botagoz Amanzholova. "Prospects of development of silk road economic belt and new opportunities of economic growth." *Journal of Advanced Research in Law and Economics 8, no. 8 (30) (2017): 2636-2643.*

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